

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-79 (cancelled).

Claims 80-102 (new) as set forth on pages 3-6 of this Amendment.

Listing of New Claims:

Claims 1-79 are cancelled without prejudice and new claims are submitted as listed below:

Claim 80 (new). A column for providing feed or drink or both to animals, said column comprising a central axis surrounded by a plurality of substantially contiguous reservoirs and a plurality of substantially abutting feeding troughs, a metering device for selectively dosing feed or drink or both from a selected one of said reservoirs to a selected one of said feeding troughs, the column being provided with a framework located around said central axis, to which said framework, said feeding troughs and said reservoirs are fitted, whereby the number of said feed troughs is substantially based on the maximum ratio of said animals to their occupied surface area received in a close side-by-side disposition around said central axis.

Claim 81 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 80, wherein said framework includes horizontal beams that coincide with and substantially define a circle and a cross-section of said framework perpendicular to said central axis is substantially circular.

Claim 82 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 80, comprising partitions disposed between said feeding troughs, such partitions each having dimensions which are sufficient to prevent animals at adjoining feeding troughs from disturbing each other when using their corresponding feed troughs for eating or drinking, the number of said partitions being equal to the number of said troughs.

Claim 83 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 80, wherein said feeding troughs and said reservoirs are fitted to said framework so as to be readily attachable and detachable therefrom.

Claim 84 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 83, wherein said feeding troughs and said reservoirs are detachable from said framework without a requirement that tools be used to effect such detachments.

Claim 85 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 81, wherein said partitions and said reservoirs are detachably connected to said framework at the column's site.

Claim 86 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 81, wherein said reservoirs are detachably mounted on said framework.

Claim 87 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 81, wherein said partitions and said feeding troughs are detachably connected to said framework and to each other.

Claim 88 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 80, wherein each of said feeding troughs comprises metering means that includes said metering device and which is connected to said framework.

Claim 89 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 80, wherein said reservoirs are interchangeable.

Claim 90 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 80, which comprises a weighing device which is interconnected to said framework for weighing materials delivered to said feeding troughs from said reservoirs.

Claim 91 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 90, wherein said weighing device is movable about said central axis.

Claim 92 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 80, comprising at least one storage room that includes said reservoirs, said metering device being operatively associated with said storage room.

Claim 93 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 92, which comprises mixing means for mixing materials present in said storage room.

Claim 94 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 92, wherein said metering device is rotatable about said central axis.

Claim 95 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 94, comprising a drive unit for moving said metering device about said central axis.

Claim 96 (new). A feeding column in accordance with Claim 80, comprising separation means for removing materials unfit for consumption by said animals from feed delivered to said feeding troughs from said reservoirs.

Claim 97 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 96, wherein said separation means comprises at least one magnet.

Claim 98 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 97, wherein said magnet is an electromagnet.

Claim 99 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 80, comprising identification means for identifying individual animals, said identification means being operatively associated with each said feeding trough.

Claim 100 (new). A column in accordance with Claim 80, which is mobile.

Claim 101 (new). An apparatus for automatically feeding animals which comprises a circular framework disposed about a vertical axis which has on its upper aspect a storage house that contains a plurality of reservoirs, a plurality of delivering means connected to said framework below said storage house, a plurality of vertical partitions extending radially from said framework, a plurality of side-by-side feeding troughs disposed below said storage house and between individual partitions which they abut, said feeding troughs being arranged in a circle around said axis, said partitions extending sufficiently beyond said feeding troughs to provide individual side-by-side stalls arranged in a circle around said axis for each feeding trough, animal identification means operatively associated with each said feeding trough, a

computer memory connected to said animal identification means wherein the nutrition needs for each animal feeding in said feeding trough are stored in said memory, weighing means operatively associated with each said feeding trough for determining the eating speed of an animal at such respective feeding trough, said reservoirs containing different feeds to provide fodder of different nutritional values, said reservoirs and said delivery means being controlled by said weighing means to deliver the amounts and types of fodder from said reservoirs to meet the nutrition needs of the animal at the feeding trough as identified by said identification means, each of said partitions, said troughs and said reservoirs respectively being substantially identical and being interconnected with said framework so that they are readily attachable and detachable therefrom at the site of the apparatus.

Claim 102 (new). An assemblage for automatically feeding domesticated animals comprising a plurality of interchangeable reservoirs for holding and delivering feed or water, or both, substantially twelve interchangeable troughs for receiving said feed or water, or both, from said reservoirs, intervening partitions between adjacent said troughs, said troughs and said intervening partitions arranged in a circle as seen from above, metering means disposed between said reservoirs and said troughs selectively providing selected food or water, or both, to selected troughs, an animal identification means for each said trough for identifying an animal that is at such trough, and a framework, said reservoirs, said troughs and said metering means being detachably fitted to and removable from said framework at the site of the assemblage without the use of tools.